



REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
February 9, 2009

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Clouette, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2009 meeting as amended.

Motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Clouette who abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION SESSION

1. Improvements to Route 44 at Birch/Cedar Swamp Road

Michael Calabrese, Project Engineer, explained the purpose of the project, the current conditions and the proposed project improvements. The purpose of the project is to improve safety and traffic operations on Rte 44 at Birch road and Cedar Swamp road. Property Agent of the Office of Rights Away, Derrick Ireland, presented on overview of the property acquisition process.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Howard Raphaelson, Timber Drive, spoke in favor of supporting Mansfield's schools and services. Mr. Raphaelson noted that those residents he has spoken to want the Town to remain as it is. (Statement attached)

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, submitted, for the record, copies of communications she has sent to Council members. (Documents attached)

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, questioned why the Town is involved in the Potter property.

Bonnie Sikoski, Wildwood Road, reported on an accident she saw on Chaffeeville road and asked the Town to sand the area earlier in the day when the weather is bad.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, spoke in support of the North Hillside Road Extension

and the Lions Park acquisition, although he urged the Council not to institute additional bonding for its purchase. He also urged the Council to resolve to lower his taxes next year.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Report attached.

Town Manager Matt Hart reported that staff continues to work on the operation and management plan for the garage and that a presentation outlining the options will be scheduled for the Town Council in early March.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

2. Potter Trust Property

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective February 09, 2009, to authorize the Town Manager to accept and subsequently convey a .7-acre parcel currently owned by the Estate of Theodore Potter, subject to a condition that any conveyance be to an abutting property owner who merges this land with an existing lot.

Mr. Nesbitt moved to amend the motion to add the following: Additionally the Town Manager shall send letters to all abutters indicating a minimum bid which shall include the outstanding taxes and incurred expenses.  
The motion to approve the amendment passed.

The motion as amended passed unanimously.

3. Community Campus Relations

The Town Manager will attend the UConn Board of Trustees meeting at which the Student Life Committee's recommendations on Spring Weekend will be presented.

4. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

Mr. Nesbitt reported that on March 24 at 7:00 p.m. the Four Corner Sewer Advisory Committee will hold an informational meeting for stakeholders and the general public.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

5. Presentation – Local Capacity Building Grant

Sandy Baxter, School Readiness Coordinator, presented the Council with an outline of the progress of the Local Capacity Building Grant, which focuses on the development of a comprehensive plan to address the needs of all young children and families. The approach being used is an approach called Results Based Accountability, which starts with the intended results and works backwards to get there. Ms. Baxter asked Council members to complete the survey found on the Town's website.

By consensus Item 9, Acquisition of Mansfield Lions Memorial Park, was moved to be the next item of business.

6. Proclamation in Honor of Peace Corps Week

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded, effective February 9, 2009, to designate the week of February 23 through March 2, 2009 as Peace Corps Week in the Town of Mansfield and to authorize the Deputy Mayor to issue the proclamation as presented by town staff. (Resolution attached)  
Deputy Mayor Haddad read the proclamation.

7. Proposed Amendments to Mansfield Code of Ethics

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective February 9, 2009, to refer to the Personnel Committee for review the recommended amendments to the Mansfield Code of Ethics.

Motion passed unanimously with thanks to the Ethics Board for their work.

8. North Hillside Road Extension

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded, effective February 9, 2009, to authorize the Deputy Mayor to finalize and co-endorse with the Planning and Zoning Commission Chair a 2/2/09 draft letter expressing the Town's support of the proposed North Hillside Road extension and the associated December 2008 Environmental Impact Statement.

Motion passed unanimously.

9. Acquisition of Mansfield Lions Memorial Park

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, to refer the proposed purchase of the 69.9 acre Mansfield Recreation Park, Inc. property to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's next regular meeting on February 23, 2009 to solicit public comment regarding the proposed purchase of this property.

Council members discussed the timing of the purchase, the financing of the park and the long- term discussions with the Lions Club.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Program Sponsorship Signs/Banners at Mansfield Skate Park

Town Council members discussed options to address the issue of program sponsorship for the skate park, including the need to amend or eliminate parts of the current regulations and the variety of different types of sponsor recognition available.

Mr. Nesbitt moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to refer the issue to the

Recreation Advisory Committee. Director of Parks and Recreation Curt Vincente will advise the Committee on the discussion of Council members.

Motion passed unanimously.

# VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- No comments

# IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- The Personnel Committee will hold a meeting tentatively on February 18<sup>th</sup> where one of the items of discussion will be whether to expand the role of the committee to include for example, the vetting of proposed ordinances.

# X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Mr. Paulhus reported that the Winter Festival was a success and a great event especially for the children.

# XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 11. American Society for Public Administration, "President-Elect Obama: You Can Save America from the Road to Ruin!" – January 2009
- 12. A Resolution Regarding CL&P's Interstate Reliability Project and Proposed Transmission Lines in Eastern Connecticut
- 13. CCM Legislative Update re: First Glance Summary of Governor's Budget Proposals As They Affect Towns and Cities
- 14. Chronicle, "Council Members Voice Opposition to Track..." – 01-30-09
- 15. Chronicle, "Council Tables Action on Rescue Services Billing Plan" – 01-29-09
- 16. Chronicle, "UConn to Host Hearing for Road Extension Proposal" – 01-27-09
- 17. Chronicle, "UC Students Concerned With Proposed Changes..." – 01-27-09
- 18. Conservation Commission re: NEEWS/CL&P January 16, 2009 Response to Town Council Questions- Ms. Koehn requested the comments of Conservation Committee be forwarded to the legislators as requested. Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to authorize the Town Manager to forward the Conservation Committee's communication to area legislators. Motion to approve the motion passed unanimously.
- 19. Conservation Commission re: NEEWS/CL&P Municipal Consultation Filing Daily Campus, "Officials Discuss N. Hillside Extension" – 02-03-09 Legal Notice: Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports
- 20. R. Miller re: Eastern Highlands Health District Fiscal Year 2009-10 Budget
- 21. G. Padick re: Regulations Regarding Drive-Thru's - Council members discussed the history, regulatory process, and carbon emission concerns regarding drive- thru's. Mr. Clouette agreed to draft language outlining the specific concerns of the Town Council to submit to the Planning and Zoning

Commission.

22. G. Padick re: UConn compost Facility: Summary/Update

23. Payments to or on Behalf of Local Governments

24. Windham Invitational Special Olympics Swim Meet

25. Citizen's Budget Guide

XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, noted the two comments she does not want to hear from staff are "trust me" and "we did it that way last year or we do it every year."

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, asked Council members to remember that drive-thru businesses are often very helpful for handicapped persons, a matter of independence.

Deputy Mayor Haddad returned to Reports of Council Members to state that contrary to having a lack of trust in the people who work for the Council they would do well to trust them to do their jobs. Mr. Haddad stated that he trusts the Town Manager implicitly to carry out the directions of the Council.

Ms. Koehn agreed with Mr. Haddad's statements noting, however, that what goes on in government needs to be transparent to the public.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

- Mr. Clouette's letter to the PZC regarding drive-thru's will be a future agenda item.

The Council recessed to go into Executive Session in accordance with CGS§1-200 (6)(B).

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Strategy – Pending Litigation

Present: Clouette, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paulhus, Schaefer

Also included: Town Manager Matthew Hart, Director of Finance Jeffrey Smith and Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk